

Unit 1

Directions:

Today, you will take Unit 1 of the Grade 4 English Language Arts/Literacy Practice Test.

Read each passage and question. Then, follow the directions to answer each question. Mark your answers by completely filling in the circles in your answer document. Do not make any pencil marks outside of the circles. If you need to change an answer, be sure to erase your first answer completely.

One of the questions will ask you to write a response. Write your response in the space provided in your answer document. Be sure to keep your response within the provided space. Only responses written within the provided space will be scored.

If you do not know the answer to a question, you may go on to the next question. If you finish early, you may review your answers and any questions you did not answer in this unit ONLY. Do not go past the stop sign.

Today you will read a story about a girl whose family is from India and a poem that expresses how the speaker faces frightening experiences. After you finish the task, you will write an essay about a theme in the story and the poem.

Read the story "Just Like Home." Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Just Like Home

by Mathangi Subramanian

- 1 When the recess bell rang, Priya sighed and slowly hung up her smock. At her old school, she spent recess climbing the monkey bars and sharing secrets with her friends. Now she sat in the corner of the field and watched the other kids play without her.
- 2 The only thing Priya liked about her new school was art. They hadn't had art at her old school, but here art was a whole hour. The studio had the most wonderful things, like aluminum pie tins, plaster of Paris and India ink. During art, Priya forgot that she didn't have any friends at her new school. All she thought about was whatever she was working on.
- 3 As she cleared her table, Priya noticed a box of sidewalk chalk sitting on the counter by the window. She grabbed and stuffed it in her pockets. Then she took her usual place at the end of the recess line.
- 4 While she and her classmates filed through the halls and out into the yard, Priya thought about how she and her mother used to draw chalk patterns on the long driveway leading up to their old apartment building. The patterns were called rangoli, and they looked like stars and roses. Priya's mother said that the drawings were to welcome guests to their home. All the families in India, where Priya's family was from, did rangoli every morning, just like Priya and her mother. Their new apartment had barely any sidewalk in front of it, and there was no room for rangoli. Priya missed the early mornings she and her mother would spend drawing feathery, colorful patterns on the cement.
- 5 Priya walked over to the basketball court and sat on the hot pavement. She was glad to have something to do besides sit in her corner. She pulled the box out of her pocket and took out a bright red piece of chalk and began drawing the rangoli patterns she loved best. She drew flowers with huge, swirling petals and stars with eight points. She colored them green, yellow and blue, all colors

her mother had used. She liked the soft, solid feeling of the chalk in her hand, and the way that the dust left patterns on her fingers.

- 6 “That’s pretty,” a voice said.
- 7 She turned around and saw that Enrique, a boy in her class, was watching her.
- 8 “It’s called *rangoli*,” she said. “They do this in India, where my parents are from.”
- 9 “You know what that reminds me of?” he asked, kneeling down beside her. “The floor of my grandmother’s house in Mexico has tiles that have designs like that.”
- 10 “What do you mean?” Priya asked.
- 11 “Hand me a piece of chalk,” Enrique said. “I’ll show you.” Enrique sat down on the pavement and began to draw. He used green, orange, and yellow chalk to draw flowers that were more detailed than Priya’s, but still had huge, curvy petals. Then he drew circles inside circles, and surrounded them with small diamonds. Priya kept drawing too, in between and around Enrique’s designs.
- 12 “What are you guys doing?” a voice asked.
- 13 Priya and Enrique had been so absorbed in drawing that they hadn’t noticed that their classmate Farah had been watching them.
- 14 “Hey,” Farah said, sitting down beside them, “that looks like the rugs in my Uncle’s house in Iran. Except on the rugs, the shapes are bigger, and aren’t as curly.”
- 15 “Show us,” said Enrique, handing her a piece of chalk.
- 16 Farah took the chalk and began drawing. She drew shapes that were full of straight lines and bold colors. They were bigger than the shapes Priya and Enrique had drawn, and they overlapped each other in diagonals to form new shapes. She colored the drawings purple, dark blue, and white.
- 17 “Wow!” Ms. Lopez, Priya’s teacher, said. “That’s beautiful!”
- 18 Priya, Enrique and Farah stood up and looked at what they had done. The pavement was covered in bright colors and shapes: triangles, circles, squares and diamonds, all mixed together. Their classmates began to drift over to see what was happening.
- 19 “It looks like a universe, with lots of planets and stars,” said Lily.
- 20 “It looks like a coral reef full of tropical fish,” said Jasper.
- 21 “What do you think it looks like Priya?” said Enrique.

22 Priya looked at Enrique and Farah. Their knees, elbows, and fingers were covered in red, yellow, green and blue chalk dust. Priya smiled and said, "It looks like home."

"Just Like Home," by Mathangi Subramanian. Reprinted with permission from Skipping Stones Multicultural Magazine, March–April 2012.

1. Part A

What is the meaning of the word **drift** as it is used in paragraph 18 of “Just Like Home”?

- A.** consider
- B.** wander
- C.** change
- D.** hover

Part B

Which detail from the story helps the reader understand the meaning of **drift**?

- A.** Priya, Enrique, and Farah create drawings that have different colors and shapes.
- B.** Jasper studies the drawings and decides they look like tropical fish swimming in a coral reef.
- C.** Lily, Jasper, and Enrique make comments about the drawings as the students come close enough to see them.
- D.** Priya smiles when her teacher and classmates show an interest in the drawings by describing them to one another.

2. Part A

Priya from “Just Like Home” would agree with which statement?

- A.** Sharing family traditions can bring comfort.
- B.** Working together is the best way to achieve success.
- C.** Using imagination often makes ordinary situations exciting.
- D.** Making quick decisions can sometimes bring the best results.

Part B

Which paragraph from the story supports the answer to Part A?

- A.** paragraph 3
- B.** paragraph 11
- C.** paragraph 19
- D.** paragraph 22

3. Part A

In “Just Like Home,” what can be learned about Priya from her statement, “It looks like home”?

- A.** She believes imagination improves art.
- B.** She realizes many of her classmates have artistic talent.
- C.** She misses the family traditions in India.
- D.** She wishes she could spend time with her friends in India.

Part B

Which detail supports the answer to Part A?

- A.** “At her old school, she spent recess climbing the monkey bars and sharing secrets with her friends.” (paragraph 1)
- B.** “While she and her classmates filed through the halls and out into the yard, Priya thought about how she and her mother used to draw chalk patterns on the long driveway leading up to their old apartment building.” (paragraph 4)
- C.** “Then he drew circles inside circles, and surrounded them with small diamonds. Priya kept drawing too, in between and around Enrique’s designs.” (paragraph 11)
- D.** “Priya, Enrique and Farah stood up and looked at what they had done. The pavement was covered in bright colors and shapes: triangles, circles, squares and diamonds, all mixed together.” (paragraph 18)

Read the poem "Life Doesn't Frighten Me." Then answer questions 4 and 5.

Life Doesn't Frighten Me

by Maya Angelou

Shadows on the wall
Noises down the hall
Life doesn't frighten me at all

Bad dogs barking loud
5 Big ghosts in a cloud
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Mean old Mother Goose
Lions on the loose
They don't frighten me at all

10 Dragons breathing flame
On my counterpane
That doesn't frighten me at all.

I go boo
Make them shoo
15 I make fun
Way they run
I won't cry
So they fly
I just smile
20 They go wild
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Tough guys fight
All alone at night
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

25 Panthers in the park
Strangers in the dark
No, they don't frighten me at all.

That new classroom where
Boys all pull my hair
30 (Kissy little girls
With their hair in curls)
They don't frighten me at all.

Don't show me frogs and snakes
And listen for my scream,
35 If I'm afraid at all
It's only in my dreams.
I've got a magic charm
That I keep up my sleeve,
I can walk the ocean floor
40 And never have to breathe.

Life doesn't frighten me at all
Not at all
Not at all.
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

"Life Doesn't Frighten Me" from AND STILL I RISE by Maya Angelou, copyright
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4. Part A

What is the meaning of lines 37–38 of “Life Doesn’t Frighten Me”?

I’ve got a magic charm
That I keep up my sleeve,

- A. a secret talent to use when the time is right
- B. a symbol of the speaker’s imagination
- C. a special treasure hidden from cruel classmates
- D. a scary experience in the speaker’s nightmares

Part B

Which lines from the poem **best** demonstrate the answer to Part A?

- A. lines 10–11
- B. lines 28–29
- C. lines 35–36
- D. lines 39–40

5. Part A

Which sentence summarizes the speaker's thoughts in "Life Doesn't Frighten Me"?

- A.** Some challenges are much more difficult than others.
- B.** Dreams can be helpful when solving problems.
- C.** Confidence is the best weapon against fear.
- D.** Being alone is the scariest place to be.

Part B

Which lines from the poem show evidence of the answer to Part A?

- A.** lines 1–2
- B.** lines 10–11
- C.** lines 19–20
- D.** lines 35–36

Refer to the story "Just Like Home" and the poem "Life Doesn't Frighten Me." Then answer questions 6 and 7.

6. Part A

The author of the story "Just Like Home" uses different structural elements than the poet of the poem "Life Doesn't Frighten Me."

Which structural element is found only in the story?

- A.** setting
- B.** dialogue
- C.** description
- D.** rhythm

Part B

Which evidence from the story supports the answer to Part A?

- A.** "Now she sat in the corner of the field and watched the other kids play without her." (paragraph 1)
- B.** "The patterns were called rangoli, and they looked like stars and roses." (paragraph 4)
- C.** "The pavement was covered in bright colors and shapes: triangles, circles, squares and diamonds, all mixed together." (paragraph 18)
- D.** "'It looks like a universe, with lots of planets and stars,' said Lily." (paragraph 19)

7. Identify a theme in “Just Like Home” and a theme in “Life Doesn’t Frighten Me.” Write an essay that explains how the theme of the story is shown through the characters and how the theme of the poem is shown through the speaker. Include specific details from the story and the poem to support your essay.

Read the story "The Elephant and the Crocodile." Then answer questions 8 through 11.

The Elephant and the Crocodile

by H. Berkeley Score

- 1 An Elephant and a Crocodile were once standing beside a river. They were disputing as to which was the better animal.
- 2 "Look at my strength," said the Elephant. "I can tear up a tree, roots and all, with my trunk."
- 3 "Ah! but quantity is not quality, and your skin is not nearly so tough as mine," replied the Crocodile, "for neither spear, arrow, nor sword can pierce it."
- 4 Just as they were coming to blows, a Lion happened to pass.
- 5 "Heyday, sirs!" said His Majesty, going up to them, "let me know the cause of your quarrel."
- 6 "Will you kindly tell us which is the better animal?" cried both at once.
- 7 "Certainly," said the Lion. "Do you see that soldier's steel helmet on yonder wall?" pointing at the same time across the river.
- 8 "Yes!" replied the beasts.
- 9 "Well, then," continued the Lion, "go and fetch it, and bring it to me, and I shall be able then to decide between you."
- 10 Upon hearing this, off they started. The Crocodile, being used to the water, reached the opposite bank of the river first, and was not long in standing beside the wall.
- 11 Here he waited till the Elephant came up. The latter, seeing at a glance how matters stood, extended his long trunk, and reached the helmet quite easily.
- 12 They then made their way together back again across the river. The Elephant, anxious to keep up with the Crocodile in the water, forgot that he was carrying the helmet on his back, and a sudden lurch caused the prize to slip off and sink to the bottom. The Crocodile noticed the accident, so down he dived, and brought it up in his capacious mouth. They then returned, and the Crocodile laid the helmet at the Lion's feet. His Majesty took up the helmet, and addressing the Elephant, said:

- 13 “You, on account of your size and trunk, were able to reach the prize on the wall but, having lost it, you were unable to recover it. And you,” said the Lion, turning to the Crocodile, “although unable to reach the helmet, were able to dive for it and save it. You are both wise and clever in your respective ways. Neither is better than the other.”

“The Elephant and the Crocodile” by H. Berkeley Score—Public Domain

8. Part A

Which sentence from the story helps the reader understand the meaning of **disputing** as it is used in paragraph 1?

- A.** “‘Heyday, sirs!’ said His Majesty, going up to them, ‘let me know the cause of your quarrel.’” (paragraph 5)
- B.** “Upon hearing this, off they started.” (paragraph 10)
- C.** “The latter, seeing at a glance how matters stood, extended his long trunk, and reached the helmet quite easily.” (paragraph 11)
- D.** “‘And you,’ said the Lion, turning to the Crocodile, ‘although unable to reach the helmet, were able to dive for it and save it.’” (paragraph 13)

Part B

Which word has the opposite meaning of **disputing**?

- A.** confessing
- B.** discussing
- C.** questioning
- D.** agreeing

9. Part A

How does the Lion react to the question the Elephant and the Crocodile ask in paragraph 6?

- A.** He disappoints them by refusing to answer.
- B.** He causes conflict by proposing a silly contest.
- C.** He shows interest in helping them solve their problem.
- D.** He addresses them as if they are less important than he is.

Part B

Which detail from the story provides evidence for the answer to Part A?

- A.** “Do you see that soldier’s steel helmet on yonder wall?” (paragraph 7)
- B.** “. . . go and fetch it, and bring it to me, and I shall be able then to decide between you.” (paragraph 9)
- C.** “His Majesty took up the helmet. . . .” (paragraph 12)
- D.** “You, on account of your size and trunk, were able to reach the prize on the wall but, having lost it, you were unable to recover it.” (paragraph 13)

10. Part A

Which character trait best describes the Lion?

- A.** wise
- B.** brave
- C.** kind
- D.** humorous

Part B

Which quotation from the story supports the answer to Part A?

- A.** "Just as they were coming to blows, a Lion happened to pass."
(paragraph 4)
- B.** "Do you see that soldier's steel helmet on yonder wall?"
(paragraph 7)
- C.** "'Well, then,' continued the Lion, 'go and fetch it, and bring it to me, and I shall be able to decide between you.'" (paragraph 9)
- D.** "'Neither is better than the other.'" (paragraph 13)

11. Part A

Which sentence **best** states a theme in the story?

- A.** We all have different strengths.
- B.** We should try to be patient with others.
- C.** We all have the power to help others.
- D.** We should always put forth our best efforts.

Part B

Which detail from the story **best** shows this theme?

- A.** “Ah! but quantity is not quality, and your skin is not nearly so tough as mine. . . .” (paragraph 3)
- B.** “The Crocodile, being used to the water, reached the opposite bank of the river first. . . .” (paragraph 10)
- C.** “. . . a sudden lurch caused the prize to slip off and sink to the bottom.” (paragraph 12)
- D.** “You are both wise and clever in your respective ways.” (paragraph 13)





You have come to the end of Unit 1 of the test.

- **Review your answers from Unit 1 only.**
- **Then, close your test booklet and answer document and raise your hand to turn in your test materials.**

